

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A naturally-occurring polypeptide isolated from a microorganism,  
  
wherein said polypeptide has an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to thereby release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit,  
  
wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,  
  
wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3,  
  
wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less,  
  
wherein said polypeptide has an approximate molecular weight of about 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE,  
  
wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight), and  
  
wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genus *Aspergillus*, the genus *Penicillium*, the genus *Rhizomucor*, and the genus *Corynebacterium*.
2. (previously presented): The polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein said disaccharide glycoside is selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$ -primeveroside, a rutinose

glycoside, a gentiobiose glycoside, an arabinofuranosyl glycoside and an apiofuranosyl glycoside.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): A polypeptide isolated from a microorganism which comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in the Sequence Listing.

5-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): A method for producing a naturally-occurring polypeptide having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit, wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,

said method comprising (1) culturing a microorganism in a nutrient medium to effect production of the polypeptide, wherein said culturing is performed under aerobic conditions with a pH in a range of 5-6, at 30°C, and wherein said nutrient medium contains a saccharide inducer, and (2) collecting said polypeptide from the resulting culture mixture,

wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3, wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less, wherein said polypeptide has an approximate molecular weight of about 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE ,

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight), and

wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genus *Aspergillus*, the genus *Penicillium*, the genus *Rhizomucor*, and the genus *Corynebacterium*.

12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented): The method for producing a polypeptide having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit according to claim 11, wherein the polypeptide is inducible by addition of a saccharide to the nutrient medium.

14. (previously presented): The method for producing a polypeptide according to claim 13, wherein the saccharide is selected from the group consisting of gentose, gentiobiose, and gentio-oligosaccharide.

15-21. (canceled).

22. (original): An isolated polypeptide represented by amino acids 1-466 of SEQ ID NO:8.

23. (canceled).

24. (currently amended): A naturally occurring polypeptide isolated from a microorganism,

wherein said polypeptide has an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to thereby release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit,

wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,

wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3,

wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less,

wherein said polypeptide has an approximate molecular weight of about 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE,

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight), and

~~The isolated polypeptide of claim 1,~~ wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the species *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus aculeatus*, *Penicillium rugulosum*, *Penicillium lilacinum*, *Penicillium decumbence*, *Penicillium multicolor*, *Rhizopus oryzae*, *Rhizomucor pusillus*, *Rhizomucor miehei*, *Talaromyces emersonii*, *Mortierella vinacea*, *Cryptococcus albidus*, *Microbacterium arborescens*, *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*, *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, and *Actinoplanes missouriensis*.

25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended): A method for producing a naturally occurring polypeptide having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit, wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,

said method comprising (1) culturing a microorganism in a nutrient medium to effect production of the polypeptide, wherein said culturing is performed under aerobic conditions with a pH in a range of 5-6, at 30°C, and wherein said nutrient medium contains a saccharide inducer, and (2) collecting said polypeptide from the resulting culture mixture,

wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3, wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less, wherein said polypeptide has an approximate molecular weight of about 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE,

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight), and

~~The method of claim 11,~~ wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the species *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus aculeatus*, *Penicillium rugolusum*, *Penicillium lilacinum*, *Penicillium decumbence*, *Penicillium multicolor*, *Rhizopus oryzae*, *Rhizomucor pusillus*, *Rhizomucor miehei*, *Talaromyces emersonii*, *Mortierella vinacea*, *Cryptococcus albidus*, *Microbacterium arborescens*, *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*, *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, and *Actinoplanes missouriensis*.